

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 241700Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2315
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3487

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, OAU, MO
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN DECISION TO ATTEND OAU SUMMIT

REF: RABAT 3430

1. DISPATCH OF MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO PREPARATORY OAU MEETING
IN LIBREVILLE WAS ANNOUNCED JUNE 23. IT HEADED INITIALLY BY
ABDELHAKIM IRAQUI, MFA SECRETARY GENERAL, AND INCLUDES MFA CHIEF
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OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN DIVISION MOHAMED BISBIS.
FONMIN AHMED LARAKI IS TO LEAVE SOON FOR LIBREVILLE TO TAKE
CHARGE. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES, LEVEL
OF MOROCCAN REPRESENTATION AT THE JULY 2-5 SMMIT NOT YET DECIDED.

2. MOROCCAN DECISION FOLLOWS SERIES OF APPEALS FOR MOROCCAN
ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING MOST RECENT ON JUNE 23 BY OAU MINISTERIAL

MEETING AND PRESIDENT BONGO. NUMEROUS AFRICAN DELEGATIONS HAD ALSO COME HERE TO URGE MOROCCO TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL: SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER SECK, IN MOROCCO JUNE 14-15, PUBLICLY EXPRESSED PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S HOPE THAT MOROCCO WOULD ATTEND. EQUALLY STRONG STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF MOROCCAN PARTICIPATION HAD BEEN MADE EARLIER BY PRESIDENT BONGO AND OUTGOING OAU PRESIDENT RAMGOOLAM OF MAURITIUS. OTHER VISITORS BELIEVED TO HAVE MADE SIMILAR PITCH WERE EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MOUBARAK JUNE 15-16; NIGER'S FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE JUNE 16; SOMALI ENVOYS COLONEL RAZZAK MOHAMED ABOU BAKR AND AISSA SOUFI, WHO CONFERRED WITH THE KING AND FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI JUNE 17 AND 21 RESPECTIVELY; AND VICTOR CANRY, UPPER VOLTAN AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, WHO ARRIVED IN RABAT JUNE 24 AS AN EMISSARY OF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA.

3. MOROCCAN DECISION TO REVERSE FEBRUARY SUSPENSION OF PARTICIPATION IN OAU ALSO PROBABLY INFLUENCED BY RECENT FAVORABLE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS COMPLETION OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS JUNE 21 WITH LARGE PRO-GOVERNMENT MAJORITY, DEFENSE PACT WITH MAURITANIA ANNOUNCED JUNE 19, WITHDRAWAL OF BENIN FROM SUMMIT, AND SUCCESSFUL END TO MOROCCAN PARTICIPATION IN SHABA WAR. MOROCCANS ARE ALSO ANXIOUS TO BE ON HAND TO DEFEND THEIR SAHARA POSITION IF NECESSARY.
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